

## Message Text

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70

ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 /035 W

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R 101457Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8682

WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS PARIS 07146

DEPT FOR A AND WE, VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR  
CAPTAIN HOWE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER) FR

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED REMARKS AND TOAST FOR VICE

PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER AT DINNER AT THE

RESIDENCE, MARCH 21, 1976

1. THANK YOU MR. AMBASSADOR:

2. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE WITH YOU THIS EVENING -- IN  
THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, IN THIS DISTINGUISHED COMPANY,  
IN THIS HANDSOME HOUSE, AND IN THIS CITY WHOSE CHARMS  
NEVER PALL. SHAKESPEARE WROTE OF CLEOPATRA, TEMPTRESS  
OF THE NILE, WHAT HE COULD EQUALLY HAVE WRITTEN OF  
PARIS, SORCERESS OF THE SEINE: "AGE CANNOT WITHER HER,  
NOR CUSTOM STALE HER INFINITE VARIETY." THAT SAME  
INFINITE VARIETY, MULTIPLIED FIFTY-FOLD, IS FRANCE  
ITSELF, NOT ONLY UNWITHERABLE BY AGE, BUT MORE DYNAMIC  
NOW THAN ANY PERIOD IN MY LIFETIME. WHEN I COMPARE THE  
FRANCE I KNEW FORTY YEARS AGO -- ECONOMICALLY STAGNANT,  
POLITICALLY DIVIDED, SHRINKING IN POPULATION, WRACKED  
BY SELF-DOUBT -- WITH THE FRANCE OF TODAY THE CONTRAST  
IS STAGGERING. I CAN THINK OF NO OTHER WESTERN COUNTRY  
WHICH HAS CHANGED MORE DRAMATICALLY OVER THE PAST HALF-  
CENTURY -- BOTH IN IMAGE AND IN REALITY. WE WERE QUICK  
TO SPEAK OF AN ITALIAN MIRACLE, OR A JAPANESE MIRACLE  
IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD. BUT THE TERM 'FRENCH MIRACLE'

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WAS RARELY USED. AND RIGHTLY SO, FOR THE TRANSFORMA-

TION OF FRANCE IS ONLY A MIRACLE TO THOSE WHO DO NOT  
KNOW THE FRENCH PEOPLE. FOR THOSE WHO DO, IT IS  
MERELY 'JUST DESSERTS.' AND FRANCE HAS TRANSFORMED HER-  
SELF INTO THE INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL POWER WE SEE  
AROUND US TODAY WITHOUT SACRIFICE OF ITS TRADITIONAL  
VALUES; SHE HAS REMAINED TRUE TO HER HISTORICAL ROLE  
AS REPOSITORY AND CUSTODIAN OF ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF  
HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT. SO OFTEN AN ANCIENT CULTURAL  
HERITAGE HAS PROVED AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES, TEMPTING  
A NATION TO FACE TOWARDS THE PAST RATHER THAN TOWARDS  
THE FUTURE. BUT UNDER THE ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP OF  
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND HIS PREDECESSORS,  
FRANCE HAS BUILT IN RECENT DECADES A FUTURE AS  
BRIGHT WITH PROMISE AS HER PAST IS WITH GLORY.

3. WILL YOU JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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